

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of the application is requested.

Claims 1 - 8 remain in the application. Claim 9 has been canceled.

Claims 1 - 8 is allowed. Accordingly, the issuance of a Notice of Allowance is respectfully solicited.

The cancellation of claim 9 should not be understood as a dedication or as applicants' acquiescence to non-patentability. Claim 9 is being canceled without prejudice and in an effort to expedite the instant application. Applicants reserve the right to further pursue claim 9 in a divisional application.

Should any further objections or questions remain, the Examiner is requested to telephone counsel so that the matter may be resolved and this application may be prepared for issue.

/Werner H. Stemer/

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